



## Memorandum

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner  
**Meeting Date:** May 24, 2017  
**Subject:** California Passenger Rail Summit

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On April 18-19, I attended the 2017 California Passenger Rail Summit in Sacramento. The purpose of the summit was to meet with leaders in the rail industry for discussions regarding the modernization and integration of passenger rail service in California. Speakers discussed strategic approaches to the growth of passenger rail in the state. I had the opportunity to meet with state and federal representatives, passenger rail agencies, and leaders working together to shape the future of passenger rail.

The Summit included sessions on the following topics:

- CEO Round Table
- Sustainability Programs
- High-Speed Rail
- New Passenger Rail Vehicles
- Tourism

Speakers included Brian Kelly, Secretary of Transportation; Joe McHugh, Amtrak Vice-President; Jeff Morales, California High Speed Rail CEO; the CEOs of California passenger rail systems; and experts on sustainability, rail vehicles, tourism.

One item learned of relevance to the Salinas Rail Extension project is that Caltrain is still proceeding with the corridor electrification, aiming at 2021 for start of electrified service, even though the federal funds are in question (\$647 million in federal funds of a total \$2 billion project cost).

While in Sacramento, I also met with Chad Edison of CalSTA and Andy Cook of Caltrans to discuss operations scenarios for the Salinas Rail Extension project. The summit is a great opportunity for networking, especially for discussing Central Coast and Monterey Bay rail projects.

More information, including photos and notes from the photographer, can be found here: <http://trainweb.org/carl/2017CaliforniaPassengerRailSummit/>.